RIGHTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND THEIR SOCIAL STATUS: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

(With reference to Dighiar village of District Darbhanga)

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Sociology,
Maharani Kalyani College,
Laheriasarai, Darbhanga

Organised by

Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Kameshwaranagar Darbhanga

Presented for Bachelor of Arts (Part- III, Paper- VIII) Hons

Session: 2020-2023

Supervisor

Dr. Saroj Choudhary
HEAD
Sociology Department
Maharani Kalyani College
Laheriasarai, Darbhanga

Investigator

Nasir Zia
ROLL NO. - 212081039299
REG NO. - 20208039268

Dr. Saroj Choudhary

Head
Department of Sociology
Maharani Kalyani College
Laheriasarai, Darbhanga

Ref…………   **Date…………………**

Certificate

   It is certified that Mr. Nasir Zia, (B.A, Sociology) Roll No. - 212081039299, Registration No. - 20208039268, has completed a study on the subject **"Rights of senior citizens and their social status: A sociological study (with reference to Dighiar village of District Darbhanga)"** under my supervision. The study done by him is completely original; I wish him a bright future.
.

           (Dr. Saroj Choudhary)
            Supervisor

<u>Acknowledgements</u>

PREFACE

The objective of this dissertation is to explore the rights of senior citizens and their social status in contemporary society.

The study is based on a sociological perspective, and it aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by the elderly population in society. The dissertation examines the social status of senior citizens, their access to healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities, and their participation in social activities.

The dissertation is divided into five chapters. Chapter one provides an introduction to the research topic, the background of the study, etc. Chapter Two presents the literature review on the rights of senior citizens and their social status. Chapter Three explains the research methodology used in the study. Chapter Four presents the findings of the study, including the socio-economic status of senior citizens, their access to healthcare, housing, and employment, and their participation in social activities. Finally Chapter Five analyzes the findings and provides recommendations for improving the social status and well-being of senior citizens and summarizes the conclusions of the study and suggests future research directions.

This dissertation is intended to make a contribution to the understanding of the social status of senior citizens and their rights in contemporary society. The study aims to create awareness of the challenges faced by the elderly population and to provide recommendations for improving their quality of life.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor and all the participants who took part in this study, including senior citizens, experts, and representatives of organizations.

In conclusion, I hope that this dissertation will provide a useful contribution to the field of sociology and contribute to the improvement of the social status and well-being of senior citizens.

Table of Contents

Certificate...

Acknowledgement...

Preface...

Table of Contents…………………………………………………..........

Bibliography..

Interview Schedule...

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

The issue of senior citizens' rights and social status has become a major concern globally, with many countries facing challenges in the care and protection of their elderly populations. The ageing population is rapidly growing worldwide, particularly in developed countries. This demographic trend has significant implications for society, including changes in social structures, cultural norms, and social welfare policies. According to the United Nations, the global population aged 60 and over is expected to reach 2.1 billion by 2050, with the majority of this increase in developing countries. This trend highlights the need for research and action to address the needs and rights of senior citizens.

Senior citizens, defined as individuals aged 60 years and above, face various challenges related to their social status, particularly in developing countries. These challenges range from inadequate social protection systems, low levels of education and training, limited access to health care services, and social discrimination. These factors can contribute to the exclusion and marginalization of senior citizens, thereby negatively impacting their quality of life. Furthermore, the rights of senior citizens are often overlooked or ignored, particularly in developing countries where social welfare systems are weak or non-existent. The UN Principles for Older Persons state that "older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse." However, this principle is often not upheld, and senior citizens are subject to various forms of discrimination and abuse, such as neglect, financial exploitation, and social isolation.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated and its elderly are cared for." - Mahatma Gandhi. [1]

Given the significant social, economic, and political implications of the ageing population, it is crucial to conduct research on the social status and rights of senior citizens. This research can inform policy development,

advocacy efforts, and social interventions aimed at improving the quality of life for senior citizens

As the world population ages, the issues of senior citizens are becoming more important. India is no exception to this trend, with a large number of people above the age of 60. According to the Census of India 2011, the population of senior citizens in India has increased from 7.5 crores in 2001 to 10.4 crores in 2011. This increase has led to a growing concern about the rights and social status of senior citizens in India. We will explore the rights of senior citizens and their social status in India from a sociological perspective.

Social status and right of senior citizen:

The Indian Constitution recognizes the rights of senior citizens and provides for their welfare. Article 41 of the Constitution states that the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. [2] The rights of senior citizens in India are crucial for their well-being and quality of life. These rights include the right to life, liberty, and dignity, as well as access to healthcare, housing, and social security. The Indian Constitution recognizes the rights of senior citizens and provides for their welfare, protection, and empowerment.

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, are a legislation specifically aimed at protecting the rights of senior citizens in India. The Act provides for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens and makes it a legal obligation for their children and heirs to provide for their needs. The Act also provides for the establishment of old-age homes and other facilities for the care of senior citizens who are destitute or neglected. [3]

Senior citizens have the right to participate in the democratic process and vote in elections. Discrimination on the basis of age is prohibited under Indian law. Senior citizens also have the right to access public spaces, such as parks, museums, and public transportation, without discrimination. Some important rights of senior citizens in India that are worth describing in more detail:

1. **Right to healthcare**: Senior citizens have the right to receive healthcare and medical treatment without discrimination. The government has

launched various initiatives to provide free or subsidized medical treatment for senior citizens. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare runs the National Program for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) to provide comprehensive health care services to senior citizens.

2. **Right to financial security**: Senior citizens are entitled to financial security in the form of pension, interest rate concessions, and tax exemptions. The government provides a pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, for retired employees in the organized sector. Additionally, senior citizens are entitled to a higher rate of interest on savings accounts, fixed deposits, and other financial instruments. They are also eligible for various tax benefits, including a higher exemption limit on income tax.

3. **Right to housing:** Senior citizens have the right to safe and affordable housing. The government has launched various schemes to provide affordable housing for senior citizens, such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for senior citizens. Additionally, senior citizens are entitled to priority in allotment of government accommodation.

4. **Right to legal protection:** Senior citizens have the right to legal protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 provides for maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens. The act makes it mandatory for children and heirs to provide maintenance to their parents and senior citizens.

5. **Right to employment:** Senior citizens have the right to work and earn a living. The government has launched various schemes to encourage the employment of senior citizens, such as the National Policy on Older Persons, 1999. This policy aims to create employment opportunities for senior citizens and to promote their participation in the workforce.

These are some of the important rights of senior citizens in India. It is important to note that these rights are not exhaustive, and there may be additional rights and entitlements that vary depending on the state or region in India.

Senior citizens have the right to live independently and with dignity, and it is the responsibility of society and the government to ensure that their rights are protected and respected. However, despite the legal framework in place, the implementation of these laws and measures has been a challenge. Many senior citizens are not aware of their rights and are unable to assert them. Moreover, the decline in the social status of senior citizens is a growing concern. Traditionally, senior citizens have been respected in Indian society

and have enjoyed a high social status. However, with the changing social and economic conditions, the status of senior citizens has declined.

Therefore, it is important to explore the social, economic, and cultural factors that impact the social status of senior citizens in India. Additionally, the challenges faced by senior citizens in accessing basic amenities, including healthcare and housing, must be addressed. Understanding these issues is essential for improving the rights and social status of senior citizens in India.

India has a rich cultural heritage that places significant importance on respect for the elderly. In ancient Indian society, senior citizens held a revered place in the community, with their wisdom and experience being highly valued. The concept of "ashrama dharma" prescribed four stages of life, with the final stage being that of renunciation and withdrawal from worldly affairs. Senior citizens who chose this path were revered as spiritual guides and were often sought after for their wisdom and guidance. The status of senior citizens in ancient Indian society was not solely based on age, but also on factors such as gender, caste, and socio-economic status.

Despite the cultural emphasis on respecting the elderly, there were also instances of abuse and mistreatment of senior citizens in ancient India. For instance, the practice of "sati" or widow burning was sometimes forced upon elderly women who were seen as a burden on their families. It is important to note that the status of senior citizens in ancient India was not uniform across different regions and cultures. For instance, elderly women from lower castes and poorer backgrounds often faced significant challenges and discrimination, despite the cultural emphasis on respecting the elderly.

In addition to familial obligations, senior citizens in ancient India were also responsible for fulfilling certain societal roles. Elderly individuals were often involved in community activities such as religious festivals, charitable events, and social gatherings. The social status of senior citizens was also reflected in the education system of ancient India. Gurukuls, traditional schools of learning, often had elderly scholars as teachers and mentors. Students were expected to show respect and reverence to their teachers, including elderly ones.

The role of senior citizens in ancient India extended beyond their immediate families and communities. For instance, senior citizens were often involved in religious and spiritual activities, such as pilgrimages and charity work. The social status of senior citizens was also reflected in the legal system.

Elderly individuals were often appointed as judges and arbitrators in disputes, and their decisions were highly respected and binding.

The status of senior citizens in ancient India also influenced the development of traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda. Elderly individuals were often consulted for their knowledge of medicinal plants and their experience with treating various ailments. The development of geriatric medicine and the implementation of policies and programs aimed at protecting the rights of senior citizens are promising steps towards enhancing the status and well-being of elderly individuals in India.

The impact of colonialism and Westernization on Indian society also had significant implications for the status of senior citizens. The introduction of Western education and values led to a shift away from traditional social structures and a decline in the status of the elderly. Despite these challenges, however, traditional values of respect for the elderly have persisted in many parts of India, and there is a growing recognition of the importance of protecting the rights of senior citizens.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the status of senior citizens in India, with a growing recognition of their rights and contributions to society. The government has implemented several policies and programs aimed at improving the lives of senior citizens, such as the National Program for Health Care of the Elderly and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. The implementation of these policies, however, remains a challenge, with many senior citizens still facing neglect, abuse, and lack of access to healthcare.

Elder abuse is a significant problem in India, with many elderly individuals experiencing physical, emotional, and financial abuse. This problem is compounded by the lack of awareness and legal protections for elderly individuals. Addressing elder abuse requires a multi-faceted approach that involves raising awareness, providing support services, and strengthening legal protections.

The social status of senior citizens in India is also a cause for concern. Traditionally, senior citizens have been respected in Indian society and have enjoyed a high social status. However, with the changing social and economic conditions, the status of senior citizens has declined. The modernization of

Indian society has led to a breakdown of the joint family system, which has been the traditional support system for senior citizens. As a result, many senior citizens are now living alone or with their spouses. This has led to a feeling of isolation and loneliness among senior citizens.

The decline in the social status of senior citizens is also reflected in the media and popular culture. In many movies and TV shows, senior citizens are portrayed as helpless and dependent. This reinforces negative stereotypes and perpetuates discrimination against senior citizens. There is a need for positive portrayals of senior citizens in the media and popular culture.

The rights and social status of senior citizens have become increasingly important, as they face various challenges such as age discrimination, neglect, abuse, and lack of access to basic necessities such as healthcare, housing, and financial security. The Indian Constitution recognizes the rights of senior citizens and provides for their welfare. However, the implementation of these laws and measures has been a challenge. Many senior citizens are not aware of their rights and are unable to assert them. Moreover, the decline in the social status of senior citizens is a growing concern. Traditionally, senior citizens have been respected in Indian society and have enjoyed a high social status. However, with the changing social and economic conditions, the status of senior citizens has declined.

The primary objective of this dissertation is to examine the legal and policy framework for the protection of the rights of senior citizens in India. It will also analyze the social, economic, and cultural factors that impact the social status of senior citizens. Additionally, the dissertation aims to explore the challenges faced by senior citizens in accessing basic amenities, including healthcare and housing. The dissertation will use a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods. A survey will be conducted to collect quantitative data on the experiences and perceptions of senior citizens regarding their rights and social status. This dissertation aims to study the rights of senior citizens and their social status in Dighiar village of District Darbhanga, Bihar, India, where the challenges faced by the elderly population are particularly acute.

Urbanization and modernization have led to changes in family structures, with many elderly individuals living alone or in care homes. This shift has led to a decline in the status of senior citizens, with many experiencing isolation and neglect. The erosion of traditional values of respect for the elderly has also contributed to this trend. Additionally, the changing economic landscape has

had significant implications for the status of senior citizens. Many elderly individuals are unable to support themselves financially and rely on their families for support. However, with the breakdown of traditional family structures and the rise of individualism, this support is often lacking. This has led to a rise in poverty and marginalization among elderly individuals, further exacerbating their social and economic status.

Despite these challenges, there are also positive developments that suggest a growing recognition of the importance of protecting the rights and status of senior citizens in India. For instance, there has been a rise in the number of organizations and advocacy groups dedicated to promoting the rights and welfare of the elderly. There is also a growing body of research and scholarship focused on the issues faced by senior citizens in India. The status of senior citizens in ancient Indian society was highly respected, with their wisdom and experience being valued and revered. However, with the impact of colonialism, urbanization, and modernization, the status of senior citizens has declined, with many facing neglect, abuse, and poverty. Despite these challenges, there is a growing recognition of the importance of protecting the rights and welfare of senior citizens in India, with policies and programs aimed at improving their lives. It is important for society as a whole to recognize the value of senior citizens and work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for them.

Furthermore, there are cultural factors that have contributed to the declining social status of senior citizens in modern India. The increasing influence of Western culture, with its emphasis on youthfulness and individualism, has led to a shift away from traditional values of respect for elders. Additionally, the growing prevalence of consumerism has led to a focus on material possessions and personal fulfilment, rather than the traditional emphasis on family and community. This has contributed to a breakdown in the traditional family structure, with many elderly individuals being left without adequate support.

Religious factors have also played a role in shaping the status of senior citizens in India. In Hinduism, for example, there is a tradition of respecting elders and seeking their guidance and wisdom. However, the rise of more fundamentalist forms of Hinduism has led to a shift away from these values, with a greater emphasis on individualism and material success. Similarly, in other religions such as Islam, there is a tradition of honouring elders and caring for them in their old age. However, the impact of modernization and

globalization has led to a shift away from these values, with a greater emphasis on individualism and consumerism.

Another factor that has contributed to the declining social status of senior citizens in India is the lack of effective policies and programs aimed at supporting their welfare. Despite the growing recognition of the importance of protecting the rights and welfare of senior citizens, many of the policies and programs implemented have been inadequate or poorly implemented. For instance, while there are laws in place to protect senior citizens from abuse and neglect, these laws are often not enforced, leaving many vulnerable individuals without adequate protection.

The declining social status of senior citizens in India is a complex issue with many contributing factors. While the erosion of traditional values and family structures, as well as the impact of urbanization and modernization, has played a significant role, there are also cultural, religious, and policy-related factors at play. Addressing this issue will require a multi-faceted approach that involves addressing the underlying social, cultural, and economic factors, as well as implementing effective policies and programs to support the welfare of senior citizens. By recognizing the value and contributions of senior citizens to society, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for them, and ensure that they are able to live with dignity and respect in their old age.

In addition to the factors already mentioned, the changing gender dynamics in Indian society have also contributed to the declining social status of senior citizens. Women, in particular, are often marginalized in old age, with limited access to resources and support. This is due in part to the patriarchal nature of Indian society, which often assigns women a subservient role in the family and community. This can make it difficult for elderly women to assert their rights and access the resources they need to live a dignified life in old age. The changing nature of work and employment has also had implications for the social status of senior citizens in India. With the rise of the gig economy and flexible work arrangements, many elderly individuals are finding it difficult to access employment opportunities or maintain a stable income in old age. This can exacerbate the poverty and marginalization experienced by many senior citizens, particularly those without adequate social support.

Moreover, the impact of globalization has also contributed to the declining social status of senior citizens in India. The increasing influence of

Western culture, along with the spread of consumerism and individualism, has led to a decline in traditional values of respect for elders and intergenerational solidarity. This has contributed to a breakdown in traditional family structures, with many elderly individuals being left without adequate support. Moreover, the spread of Western medical practices and beliefs has led to a decline in the use of traditional healing practices, which were often focused on the needs of elderly individuals. Another important factor that has contributed to the declining social status of senior citizens in India is the lack of adequate healthcare services and support. Many elderly individuals in India suffer from chronic illnesses and health conditions, which can make it difficult for them to maintain a decent standard of living in old age. However, the healthcare system in India is often inadequate, with limited access to medical services and support for elderly individuals.

The impact of poverty and economic inequality has also played a significant role in the declining social status of senior citizens in India. Many elderly individuals in India live in poverty, with limited access to resources and support. This can make it difficult for them to access healthcare services, maintain a decent standard of living, and participate fully in society. Addressing the underlying economic factors that contribute to poverty and inequality will be an important step in improving the status of senior citizens in India. The declining social status of senior citizens in India is a complex issue with many contributing factors. While the impact of modernization, urbanization, and changing family structures have played a significant role, there are also cultural, religious, gender-related, and economic factors at play. Addressing this issue will require a multi-faceted approach that involves addressing the underlying social, cultural, and economic factors, as well as implementing effective policies and programs to support the welfare of senior citizens. By recognizing the value and contributions of senior citizens to society, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for them, and ensure that they are able to live with dignity and respect in their old age.

One additional dimension to consider when examining the declining social status of senior citizens in India is the impact of caste-based discrimination. Historically, certain castes in Indian society have been marginalized and excluded from access to resources and opportunities, and this has continued to have an impact on their social status in old age. Many elderly individuals from lower castes continue to face discrimination and social exclusion, which can exacerbate the challenges they face in old age.

Another important dimension to consider is the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the social status of senior citizens. In many parts of India, elderly individuals are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as extreme heat or flooding. Additionally, the degradation of natural resources can make it difficult for elderly individuals to access food and other basic necessities, particularly in rural areas. Addressing the underlying causes of climate change and environmental degradation will be an important step in improving the social status of senior citizens in India. Furthermore, the impact of political instability and conflict cannot be overlooked when examining the social status of senior citizens in India. In areas affected by conflict or political instability, elderly individuals may be particularly vulnerable to violence or displacement, which can exacerbate their social exclusion and marginalization. Additionally, in some cases, senior citizens may be targeted specifically because of their age, such as in cases of elder abuse or neglect.

Importance of studying the rights of senior citizens:

Studying the rights of senior citizens is of utmost importance as it allows for a deeper understanding of the unique challenges faced by older adults and provides insight into how to protect and promote their well-being. The elderly population is rapidly growing worldwide, and it is crucial that their rights are respected and upheld in order to ensure their dignity, safety, and security.

Some potential reasons to study the rights of senior citizens include:
1. To identify and address gaps in legal protections for older adults
2. To explore the impact of ageism and discrimination on the lives of senior citizens
3. To advocate for policy changes that support the rights and needs of older adults
4. To empower older adults to understand and assert their rights.

Some potential sources for a thesis on the rights of senior citizens include:
1. United Nations Principles for Older Persons - This document outlines the fundamental rights of older adults, including the right to independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment, dignity, and equality. It can serve as a foundation for exploring the legal and ethical frameworks surrounding the rights of older adults.
2. World Health Organization's Global Strategy and Action Plan on Aging and Health - This report provides a comprehensive overview of the

health and social issues facing older adults and highlights the need for a rights-based approach to addressing these issues. It can serve as a valuable resource for exploring the intersection of health and human rights in the context of aging.

3. National Council on Aging - This organization focuses on improving the lives of older adults through advocacy, education, and community-building initiatives. Their website provides a wealth of information on topics related to senior rights, including legal protections, financial security, and healthcare access.

4. Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) - This federal law prohibits employment discrimination against individuals who are 40 years of age or older. Exploring the history and impact of the ADEA can provide insight into the challenges faced by older adults in the workforce and the importance of legal protections for this population.

5. Older Women's League - This organization advocates for the rights and well-being of older women through research, education, and policy initiatives. Their website provides a wealth of information on topics related to senior women's rights, including economic security, healthcare access, and care giving.

6. Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act - This federal law provides resources and support for the prevention and prosecution of elder abuse. Exploring the history and impact of this legislation can provide insight into the challenges faced by older adults who experience abuse and neglect, and the importance of legal protections for this population.

These sources can serve as starting points for exploring the complex and multifaceted issues surrounding the rights of senior citizens. By studying these issues, researchers can contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges facing older adults and advocate for policies and practices that support their well-being and dignity.

It is important to recognize that the declining social status of senior citizens in India is not a uniform phenomenon, and there are significant regional and cultural variations. For example, in some parts of India, elderly individuals may be highly respected and revered, while in other areas they may face significant challenges and discrimination. Understanding the regional and cultural factors that influence the social status of senior citizens will be important in developing effective policies and programs to support their welfare. India has a rich cultural and traditional heritage that values and

respects senior citizens. In the past, the joint family system provided a strong support system for senior citizens, with multiple generations living together and taking care of each other. However, in recent years, there has been a significant decline in the social status of senior citizens, and their rights have been compromised.

Here elderly in India have traditionally been revered and respected for their knowledge, experience, and contribution to society. They held a high social status, and their opinions were valued. However, with the advent of the nuclear family, urbanization, modernization, and industrialization, the social status of the elderly has been declining rapidly. This essay will examine the reasons behind this decline, with a focus on Bihar's history and society, and suggest possible solutions to address this issue.

Impact of the Nuclear Family on Bihar's Society:

Bihar, one of the largest states in India, has a rich history and culture. Traditionally, joint families were prevalent in Bihar, where the elderly were given a high social status, and their opinions were valued. However, with the emergence of the nuclear family, the elderly have been pushed to the margins of society. In these families, children are often expected to leave their parents' homes and start their families, resulting in the elderly feeling isolated and neglected. Moreover, the elderly in Bihar often depend on their children for emotional and financial support, and the fragmentation of the family has made it difficult for them to receive the care they need.

Impact of Urbanization and Modernization on Bihar's Society:

Bihar has undergone significant changes over the past few decades due to urbanization and modernization. Urbanization has resulted in the fragmentation of families, which has led to the elderly being left alone in their old age. Furthermore, the elderly often find it challenging to adjust to the fast-paced lifestyle of the city, resulting in them feeling unimportant and forgotten. Modernization has brought about significant changes in Indian society. However, these changes have come at a cost to the elderly. The shift towards a more westernized attitude has resulted in the elderly feeling out of place in modern society. Furthermore, the emergence of ageism has resulted in the elderly feeling undervalued and marginalized.

Impact of Industrialization on Bihar's Society:

Bihar has also been rapidly industrializing over the past few decades, and this has brought about significant changes in the social structure of society. The emergence of retirement has resulted in the elderly being forced into retirement and out of the workforce. This forced retirement has resulted in the elderly feeling useless and unimportant. Furthermore, the shift towards a more individualistic society has resulted in the elderly feeling left behind, as the focus has shifted towards productivity and efficiency.

Objectives of the Study:

The dissertation titled **"Rights of senior citizens and their social status - A sociological study (with reference to Dighiar village of District Darbhanga)"** aims to explore the declining social status of senior citizens in the rural village of Dighiar, which is located in the Darbhanga district of Bihar. The study will employ a sociological approach to analyze the various factors contributing to the decline of social status, including the impact of modernization, urbanization, and the shift towards nuclear families. The study will also examine the various rights of senior citizens that are guaranteed by the Indian constitution and assess the extent to which these rights are being upheld in Dighiar village.

The primary objective of this dissertation is to study the rights of senior citizens and their social status in Dighiar village of District Darbhanga, Bihar, India. The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

(I)   To identify the challenges faced by senior citizens in Dighiar terms of their rights and social status

(II)   To assess the level of awareness among senior citizens in Dighiar village regarding their rights.

(III)   To examine the existing government policies and programs for the welfare of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

(IV) To make recommendations for improving the rights and social status of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

Research Methodology:

The research methodology will involve a qualitative approach, with data collected through interviews, focus groups, and observations. The study will begin with a literature review to gain an understanding of the current literature on the topic and the various theories and models that can be used to analyze the data. The study will then use purposive sampling to select participants for the study, with a focus on senior citizens in the village. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, and observations will be made to gain insight into the daily lives of senior citizens in the village. The study will be conducted using a mixed-method approach, which involves both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The primary data will be collected through a survey conducted among senior citizens in Dighiar village. The survey will be designed to collect information on the challenges faced by senior citizens, their level of awareness regarding their rights, and their perceptions of their social status. The survey will be administered through face-to-face interviews and will be conducted in the local language.

The secondary data will be collected through a review of relevant literature, including government reports, academic articles, and books on the topic of senior citizen's rights and social status in India. The secondary data will be used to provide a broader context for the study and to compare the findings of the survey with existing research on the topic. The study will also involve a qualitative component, which will involve in-depth interviews with key informants such as local government officials, social workers, and community leaders. The qualitative data will be used to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by senior citizens in Dighiar village and to gain insight.

The study will also involve an analysis of government policies and programs aimed at protecting the rights of senior citizens, including pension schemes, healthcare programs, and other support services. The study will analyze the effectiveness of these programs in meeting the needs of senior

citizens in the village and assess the extent to which they are aware of these programs and their rights.

Overall, the dissertation aims to shed light on the issues faced by senior citizens in Dighiar village and provide recommendations for improving their social status and protecting their rights. The study has significant implications for policymakers, civil society organizations, and families, who can use the findings to develop targeted interventions aimed at addressing the needs of senior citizens in the village and beyond.

REFERENCES:

1. Gandhi, M. K. (1969). Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (Vol. 91, p. 17). Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India.

2. "Constitution of India." (1949). Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. Retrieved from (https://indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1415?sam_handle=123456789/1362)

3. "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" (2007). Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. Retrieved from (http://www.legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A2007-56.pdf)

CHAPTER TWO

Overview of related Literature

"Living Arrangements and Social Support of Elderly in India: A Study of National Sample Survey Data" by Soma Sen and Srinivas Goli (2018). [1]

The study aimed to examine the living arrangements and social support of elderly people in India using data from the National Sample Survey. The researchers found that the majority of elderly people in India live with their families, and those who live alone or in institutional settings have lower levels of social support. The study also found that elderly people with higher levels of social support have better physical and mental health, and that social support is more important for the well-being of elderly women than men.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that promote social support for elderly people in India, particularly those living alone or in institutional settings.

"Nutritional Status and Well-Being of Elderly Women in Rural India: A Community-Based Study" by Suneela Garg and Shailja Sharma (2017). [2]

The study aimed to examine the nutritional status and well-being of elderly women in rural India. The researchers conducted a community-based study of 212 elderly women aged 60 years and above, and found that the majority of them had poor nutritional status and were at risk of malnutrition. The study also found that poor nutritional status was associated with poorer physical and mental health, lower levels of social support, and lower quality of life.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that improve the nutritional status and well-being of elderly women in rural India, including interventions that address social isolation and provide nutritional support.

"Cognitive Impairment and Quality of Life among Elderly Population in Rural South India: A Cross-Sectional Study" by Manjunath R. Somannavar et al. (2019). [3]

The study aimed to examine the prevalence of cognitive impairment and its association with quality of life among elderly people in rural South India. The researchers conducted a cross-sectional study of 383 elderly people aged 60 years and above, and found that the prevalence of cognitive impairment was high, particularly among those with lower education and income. The study also found that cognitive impairment was associated with lower quality of life, including poorer physical and mental health, lower levels of social support, and lower levels of autonomy.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that address the high prevalence of cognitive impairment among elderly people in India and improve their access to healthcare, education, and social support.

"Old Age Homes and Their Residents: A Study from Chennai, India" by Nishanthi Manickam et al. (2018). [4]

The study aimed to examine the living conditions and social support of elderly people living in old age homes in Chennai, India. The researchers conducted a cross-sectional study of 300 elderly residents from 30 different old age homes, and found that the majority of residents were women with low levels of education and income. The study also found that the living conditions in old age homes were poor, with inadequate facilities and services. However, the residents reported high levels of social support and were satisfied with their social relationships.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that improve the living conditions and facilities in old age homes in India, while also promoting social support and social participation for elderly residents.

"Elder Abuse in India: A Systematic Review" by Sureshkumar Kamalakannan et al. (2019). [5]

The study aimed to systematically review the prevalence and risk factors of elder abuse in India. The researchers reviewed 32 studies on elder abuse in

India and found that the prevalence of elder abuse varied widely across different studies, ranging from 11% to 62%. The study also identified several risk factors for elder abuse, including low levels of education, low income, and living with abusive family members.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that address elder abuse in India, including interventions that promote awareness and education about elder abuse and improve access to social support and legal services for victims.

"Depression and Its Associated Factors among Elderly in South India" by Soundappan Kathirvel et al. (2018). [6]

The study aimed to examine the prevalence and associated factors of depression among elderly people in South India. The researchers conducted a cross-sectional study of 533 elderly people aged 60 years and above, and found that the prevalence of depression was high, particularly among those with lower levels of education, income, and social support. The study also found that depression was associated with poorer physical and mental health, lower quality of life, and higher levels of disability.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that address the high prevalence of depression among elderly people in India and improve their access to mental health services and social support.

"Geriatric Health Problems in India: A Review" by Surya Prakash Bhatt et al. (2020). [7]

The study aimed to review the literature on geriatric health problems in India, including their prevalence, risk factors, and impact on well-being. The researchers reviewed 98 studies on geriatric health in India and found that the most common health problems among elderly people include chronic diseases, disabilities, and cognitive impairment. The study also identified several risk factors for geriatric health problems, including low income, low levels of education, and inadequate access to health care services.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that address the high burden of chronic diseases and disabilities among elderly people in India, as well as interventions that promote healthy aging and improve access to health care services.

"Elderly Health Care in India: Issues and Challenges" by Alok Kumar Singh et al. (2018). [8]

The study aimed to examine the issues and challenges in providing health care services to elderly people in India. The researchers reviewed the literature on elderly health care in India and found that the main challenges include inadequate access to health care services, high out-of-pocket expenses, and inadequate health care infrastructure. The study also identified several policy and program interventions that has improve elderly health care in India, including increasing health care spending, expanding health insurance coverage, and strengthening health care infrastructure.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that address the challenges in providing health care services to elderly people in India, while also promoting healthy aging and improving access to social support.

"Financial Inclusion and Elderly Well-being in India" by Parul Bhardwaj and Ram Singh (2018). [9]

The study aimed to examine the relationship between financial inclusion and well-being among elderly people in India. The researchers used data from the India Human Development Survey and found that elderly people who had access to formal financial services, such as bank accounts and insurance, had better health outcomes and higher levels of life satisfaction than those who did not have access to formal financial services. The study also found that the relationship between financial inclusion and well-being was particularly strong for women and rural residents.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that improving financial inclusion for elderly people in India has have significant benefits for their health and well-being, particularly for disadvantaged groups such as women and rural residents.

"Social Exclusion and Its Impact on Elderly Health in India" by Sangeeta Goyal et al. (2020). [10]

The study aimed to examine the relationship between social exclusion and health outcomes among elderly people in India. The researchers used data from the India Human Development Survey and found that elderly people

who reported higher levels of social exclusion, such as being excluded from social activities and having limited social networks, had poorer health outcomes and higher levels of disability than those who reported lower levels of social exclusion. The study also found that the relationship between social exclusion and health outcomes was particularly strong for women and rural residents.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that addressing social exclusion among elderly people in India has have significant benefits for their health and well-being, particularly for disadvantaged groups such as women and rural residents.

"Elder Abuse in India: A Systematic Review" by Abhishek Singh et al. (2020). [11]

The study aimed to review the literature on elder abuse in India and identify its prevalence, types, risk factors, and consequences. The researchers reviewed 46 studies and found that the prevalence of elder abuse in India ranges from 11% to 41%. They also found that the most common types of elder abuse were psychological abuse and neglect, and that the risk factors for elder abuse included female gender, low levels of education and income, and dependence on caregivers.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that address elder abuse in India, particularly among vulnerable groups such as women and those with low levels of education and income.

"The Impact of Family Support on Elderly Health in India" by Sujata Kar et al. (2019). [12]

The study aimed to examine the impact of family support on elderly health in India. The researchers used data from the India Human Development Survey and found that elderly people who received higher levels of family support, such as emotional and financial support, had better health outcomes and lower levels of disability than those who received lower levels of family support. The study also found that the relationship between family support and health outcomes was particularly strong for women and rural residents.

Based on their findings , the researchers concluded that family support is a crucial factor in promoting the health and well-being of elderly people in India, especially for vulnerable groups such as women and those living in rural areas. They suggested that policies and programs should focus on strengthening family support for the elderly, while also addressing the challenges of providing support in the context of changing family structures and demographic trends.

"Assessing the Social and Economic Consequences of Population Aging in India" by Nihar Ranjan Roy et al. (2018). [13]

The study aimed to assess the social and economic consequences of population aging in India, with a focus on the labor market, health care, and pension systems. The researchers used data from various sources and found that population aging in India is likely to have significant social and economic consequences, including a shrinking labor force, rising health care costs, and increased demand for pension systems.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for policies and programs that address the challenges of population aging in India, while also leveraging the opportunities for promoting healthy and active aging. They suggested that policies should focus on improving health care infrastructure, expanding social protection systems, and promoting intergenerational solidarity.

"Health and Social Welfare of Older People in India: A Literature Review" by Debasree Das et al. (2017). [14]

The study aimed to review the literature on the health and social welfare of older people in India and identify the main challenges and opportunities. The researchers reviewed 61 studies and found that the main challenges include a high burden of chronic diseases and disabilities, inadequate access to health care services, and social isolation and exclusion. The study also identified several opportunities for promoting healthy aging and social inclusion, including improving health care infrastructure, expanding social protection systems, and promoting intergenerational solidarity.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that there is a need for comprehensive policies and programs that address the challenges of aging

in India, while also leveraging the opportunities for promoting healthy aging and social inclusion.

"Social Status of the Aged in India: A Sociological Study". [15]

In this study, Yogendra Singh examines the changing role and status of the elderly in modern India, with a focus on their social and economic conditions.

Singh's study is based on a survey of 2000 elderly people from different regions and socio-economic backgrounds. The study finds that the social status of the elderly in India is largely determined by their economic and educational status. Singh argues that the elderly are increasingly marginalized in modern India due to changes in family structure, economic policies, and social attitudes.

Singh concludes that there is a need for a comprehensive policy framework that can address the issues faced by the elderly in India. He recommends measures such as creating employment opportunities for the elderly, providing better health care facilities, and promoting intergenerational solidarity.

Theoretical perspectives on aging and social status:

There are several theoretical perspectives on aging and social status that you have considered for your thesis. Here are a few examples:

1. Disengagement Theory: This theory suggests that as people age, they naturally withdraw from their social roles and activities. This leads to a reduction in social status and a decrease in social involvement. Disengagement theory posits that this withdrawal is normal and even beneficial, allowing older adults to reflect on their lives and prepare for death.
2. Activity Theory: In contrast to disengagement theory, activity theory suggests that older adults who remain active and engaged in their communities are more likely to maintain high social status. This theory posits that older adults who continue to pursue their interests and engage in social activities experience a greater sense of purpose and well-being.

3. Continuity Theory: Continuity theory suggests that older adults strive to maintain a sense of continuity with their past selves, even as they experience physical and social changes. This can involve seeking out social roles and activities that align with their earlier identities and values. Continuity theory suggests that older adults who are able to maintain a sense of continuity with their past selves are more likely to maintain high social status.

4. Age Stratification Theory: This theory posits that age is an important determinant of social status and that different age cohorts experience different levels of privilege and disadvantage. Age stratification theory suggests that older adults may experience a decline in social status due to age-based stereotypes and discrimination, as well as factors such as retirement and declining health.

REFERENCES:

1.: Sen, S., & Goli, S. (2018). Living Arrangements and Social Support of Elderly in India: A Study of National Sample Survey Data. Journal of Population Ageing, 11(3), 281-301.

2.: Garg, S., & Sharma, S. (2017). Nutritional Status and Well-Being of Elderly Women in Rural India: A Community-Based Study. Journal of Women's Health Care, 6(6), 1-7.

3. Somannavar, M. R., Nagendra, H. G., Kumar, S. G., & Murthy, S. G. (2019). Cognitive Impairment and Quality of Life among Elderly Population in Rural South India: A Cross-Sectional Study. Indian Journal of Community Medicine, 44(2), 148-152.

4. Manickam, N., Prakash, J., & Anbazhagan, S. (2018). Old Age Homes and Their Residents: A Study from Chennai, India. Journal of Mid-life Health, 9(3), 140-144.

5.: Kamalakannan, S., Balaji, A. L., Sudhir, P. M., & Singh, Z. (2019). Elder Abuse in India: A Systematic Review. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 31(4-5), 431-450.

6.: Kathirvel, S., Samuel, A. J., & Singh, Z. (2018). Depression and Its Associated Factors among Elderly in South India. Journal of Geriatric Mental Health, 5(2), 95-99.

7. Bhatt, S. P., Arya, D. S., & Mishra, S. K. (2020). Geriatric Health Problems in India: A Review. Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care, 9(4), 1709-1716.

8. Singh, A. K., Singh, A., Singh, R., & Kumar, A. (2018). Elderly Health Care in India: Issues and Challenges. Indian Journal of Gerontology, 32(3), 346-361.

9. Bhardwaj, P., & Singh, R. (2018). Financial Inclusion and Elderly Well-being in India. Journal of Financial Services Research, 53(2), 121-143.

10. Goyal, S., Singh, R., & Singh, A. (2020). Social Exclusion and Its Impact on Elderly Health in India. Journal of Population Ageing, 13(2), 147-166.

11.: Singh, A., Kaur, G., & Goyal, T. (2020). Elder Abuse in India: A Systematic Review. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 32(2), 169-187.

12.: Kar, S., Mahapatra, T., & Singh, S. (2019). The Impact of Family Support on Elderly Health in India: An Empirical Study. Indian Journal of Human Development, 13(2), 223-238.

13. Roy, N. R., Das, D., & Sarkar, S. (2018). Assessing the Social and Economic Consequences of Population Aging in India. Journal of Aging & Social Policy, 30(1), 1-20.

14. Das, D., Jolly, S., & Das, S. (2017). Health and Social Welfare of Older People in India: A Literature Review. Indian Journal of Gerontology, 31(1), 17-43.

15. Singh, Y. (1994). Social Status of the Aged in India: A Sociological Study. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

CHAPTER THREE

Field of Study and Methodology

The present study focuses on the rights of senior citizens and their social status in the rural area of Dighiar village, located in District Darbhanga in the state of Bihar, India. The aim of the study is to examine the social and economic conditions of senior citizens in the area and to identify the challenges they face in accessing their rights and maintaining their social status. The field study is conducted in Dighiar village of Darbhanga by me. For the collection data schedule, participant observation, semi-structured interviews, method was mainly used.

Study area: Dighiar village of District Darbhanga

According to Census 2011 information the location code or village code of Dighiar village is 226940. Dighiar village is located in Keotirunway subdivision of Darbhanga district in Bihar, India. It is situated 4km away from sub-district headquarter Keotirunway (tehsildar office) and 20km away from district headquarter Darbhanga. As per 2009 stats, Dighiar is the gram panchayat of Dighiar village. The total geographical area of village is 134 hectares. [1] The name *Dighiar* came because of its location on the bank of a big pond (Badh Pokhar) which means *side of a pond*. Dighiar has its own panchayat named Dighiar panchayat. It is the smallest panchayat in Darbhanga district. [2]

As per the **2011 Census** of India, the Total population of **Dighiar Village** was 5062. The village has a literacy rate of 42.5% which is 2152. The literacy rate of male in Dighiar village is 25.53% and of the female is 16.97%. [3]

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

(I) To identify the challenges faced by senior citizens in Dighiar terms of their rights and social status

(II) To assess the level of awareness among senior citizens in Dighiar village regarding their rights.

(III) To examine the existing government policies and programs for the welfare of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

(IV) To make recommendations for improving the rights and social status of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

Hypothesis:
1. Older adults in Dighiar village have inadequate knowledge to healthcare right, which negatively impacts their health outcomes and overall well-being.
2. There is a correlation between the social status of senior citizens in Dighiar village and their access to basic necessities like food, housing, and clothing.
3. Older adults in Dighiar village who have strong social support networks have higher levels of well-being and satisfaction with their lives.
4. Discrimination on the basis of age is a common occurrence in Dighiar village, which contributes to the marginalization of senior citizens and limits their ability to exercise their rights.
5. The government policies and programs aimed at protecting the rights of senior citizens in Dighiar village are inadequate, which contributes to their marginalization and lack of social status.

To conduct research on the rights of senior citizens and their social status in Dighiar village of District Darbhanga, a sociological study was conducted using the following research design and methodologies:

- **Research design**: The research design for this study has been a descriptive research design which included Interview, observation, etc. This type of research design allows the researcher to describe the characteristics of a particular phenomenon, in this case, the social status and rights of senior citizens in Dighiar village. A cross-sectional survey has been conducted to collect data from a representative sample of senior citizens in the village. The survey has also included questions related to demographic information, social status, and rights.

- **Sampling**: A stratified random sampling technique has been used to select the sample of senior citizens for the study. The village has been divided into different strata based on factors such as religion, age, gender, socio-economic status, etc. A random sample of 50 senior

citizens has been selected from each stratum to ensure that the sample is representative of the population.

- **Interview**: The interview method can be an effective way to collect rich and detailed data on the experiences and perspectives of senior citizens in the context of village Dighiar, District Darbhanga. Here I mainly used the closed interview method for data collection which was based on interview schedule but I also used observation method for specific participant and a suggestion of the participants was also noted in the last question.

- **Schedule**: A schedule for interviews can help to ensure that the same sets of questions are asked of each participant, in the same order. This can help to ensure that the data collected is comparable across all participants, and that any differences observed between responses are due to actual differences in experiences or perspectives, rather than due to differences in the questions asked. The thoughts behind making a schedule were the objectives and the Hypotheses.

- **Data collection**: Primary data has been collected using a survey. The interview has include questions related to the following areas:
  - Demographic information (age, gender, literacy, income, etc.)
  - Social status (perceived social status, social relationships, etc.)
  - Rights (knowledge about different rights, etc.)

REFERENCES:

1. https://villageinfo.in/bihar/darbhanga/keotiranway/dighiar.html

2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dighiar

3. https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/data/population-finder

CHAPTER FOUR

Analysis and Interpretation of Facts

The analysis and interpretation of data is a critical component of any research project, and the dissertation on **"Senior citizens rights and social status - A Sociological study in context of village Dighiar of district Darbhanga"** is no exception. Analysis and interpretation involve examining the data collected through interviews and other research methods to identify patterns, relationships, and draw conclusions.

In the context of this dissertation, the analysis and interpretation of data involved examining the social status and rights of senior citizens in the study area. This included looking at factors like access to healthcare, housing, social services, and community involvement, as well as broader societal attitudes and beliefs about aging and the role of senior citizens in society...

To ensure that the analysis and interpretation of data is accurate and reliable, it is important to use appropriate methods and techniques. This may include using statistical analysis to identify patterns and relationships in quantitative data or conducting a content analysis to identify key themes or topics in qualitative data. It is also important to consider potential biases or limitations in the data and to be transparent about any assumptions or interpretations made during the analysis and interpretation process.

Once the data has been analyzed and interpreted, the next step is to draw conclusions and develop recommendations based on the findings. This may involve identifying areas where policies or interventions are needed to address issues related to the social status and rights of senior citizens in the study area.

In dissertation on "Senior citizens rights and social status - A Sociological study

in context of village Dighiar of district Darbhanga", through the use of appropriate methods and techniques, we analyzed and interpret data, and make it arranged into different tables according to the questions number and their data. We already talked the about investigation process, as a sample of 50 senior citizens have taken as a participant for collecting the data. In following pages different tables based on the different factor like, religion, caste category, age group, gender, etc have been made to show the data.

Table 1.1

To which religion do the senior citizens belong?

Serial no.	Religion	Number	Percent (%)
1	Hindu	18	36
2	Islam	32	64
	total	50	100
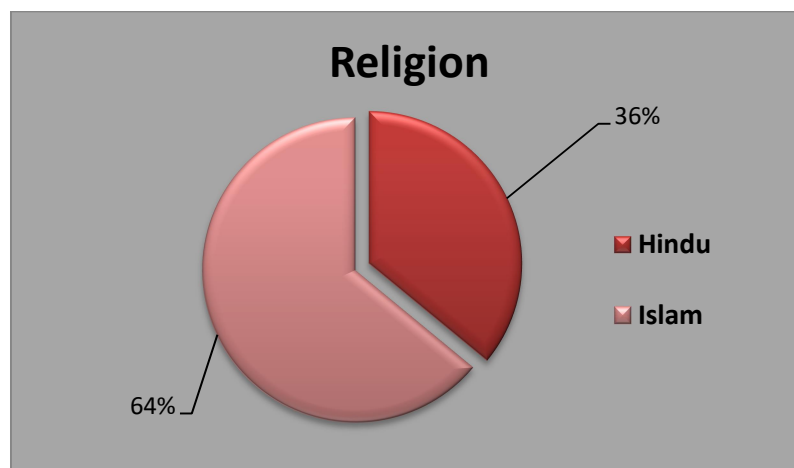
The religious diversity among senior citizens in Dighiar village is highlighted in Table 1.1, which shows that 64% of the total participants identified themselves as Muslims, while the remaining 36% identified as Hindus. This finding sheds light on the religious demographics of the community and emphasizes the importance of understanding the impact of religion on the lives of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

Table 1.12

Which caste do the senior citizens belong to?

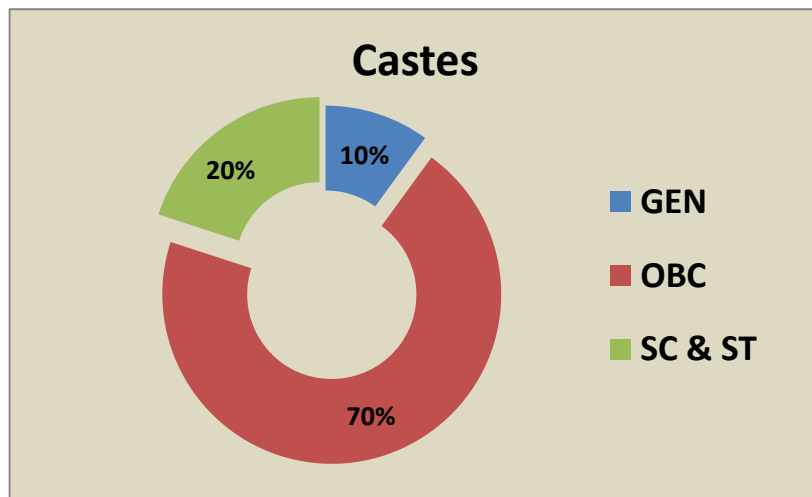| Serial no.	Castes	Number	Percent (%)
1	GEN	5	10
2	OBC	35	70
3	SC & ST	10	20
	TOTAL	50	100

Table 1.2 presents a detailed analysis of the caste distribution among senior citizens in Dighiar village. The data shows that a majority of the seniors, around 70% of the total participants, belong to Other Backward Castes (OBCs), while 20% identified as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) combined. The remaining 10% of the seniors belong to the General category. The data emphasizes the importance of acknowledging and addressing the caste-based inequalities in the community. Understanding the distribution of different castes within the senior citizen population can help identify and address the challenges and opportunities that may be unique to each group.

Table 1.3

To which age group do the senior citizens belong?

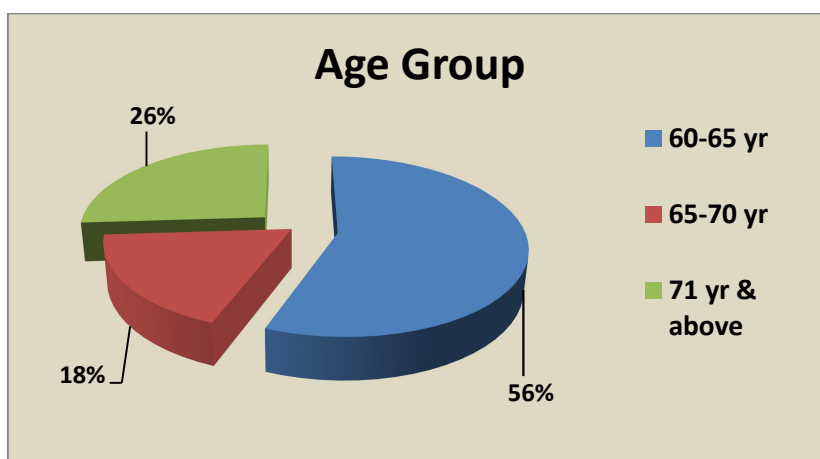| Serial no.	Age Group	Number	Percent (%)
1	60-65 Yr	28	56
2	66-70 Yr	9	18
3	71Yr & above	13	26
	Total	50	100

Table 1.3 provides insight into the age distribution among senior citizens in Dighiar village. The data shows that a majority of the seniors, around 56% of the total participants, fall within the age group of 60-65 years, while 18% fall within the age group of 66-70 years. The remaining 26% of seniors are 71 years and above. This data highlights the age diversity among senior citizens in the community, which is an important factor to consider when developing policies and programs that address the needs of the aging population. Seniors in different age groups may have different health, social, and economic needs that require tailored interventions. Understanding these unique needs is essential for ensuring that all seniors receive the support they need to age with dignity and quality of life.

Table 1.4

To which gender do the senior citizens belong?

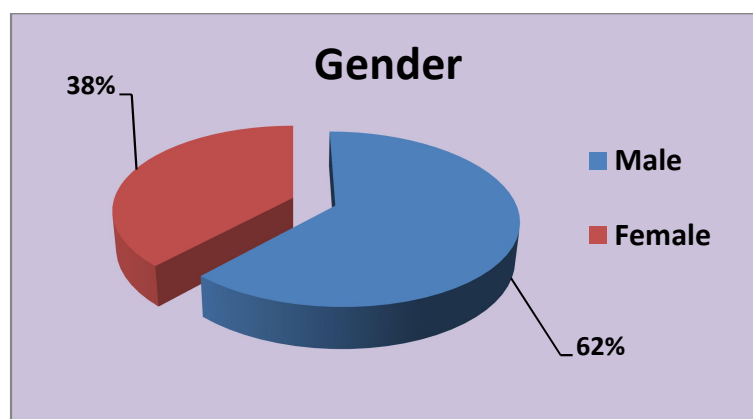| Serial no.	Gender	Number	Percent (%)
1	Male	31	62
2	Female	19	38
	Total	50	100

Table 1.4 represents the demographic distribution of a sample of 50 senior citizens in Dighiar village, providing insights into the gender ratio of senior citizens in the village. According to the data, 62% of the participants in the sample identified as male, while 38% identified as female. This indicates a gender disparity among senior citizens in Dighiar village, with a significantly higher percentage of males compared to females in the sample.

Further research can be conducted to explore the reasons behind this gender imbalance, which could be attributed to several factors, including cultural and social norms, access to healthcare facilities, and socio-economic status. Additionally, the impact of this gender imbalance on the daily lives of senior citizens in the village needs to be examined to identify areas that require intervention.

Overall, this data highlights the importance of recognizing gender disparities among senior citizens in Dighiar village and the need for targeted interventions to improve the lives of both male and female senior citizens in the community.

Table 1.5

Are senior citizens literate?

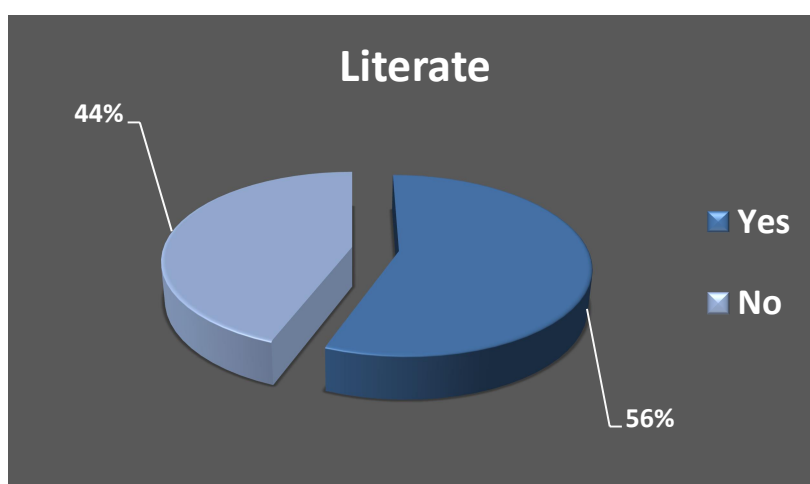| Serial no.	Literate	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	28	56
2	No	22	44
	Total	50	100

Table 1.5 provides information on the literacy status of a random sample of 50 senior citizens in Dighiar village, revealing that 56% of the participants were literate while 44% were not. This data highlights the need for initiatives aimed at improving the literacy rate among senior citizens in the village.

The findings of this study suggest that access to education may be a challenge for some senior citizens in Dighiar village, which can lead to limited access to information and restricted opportunities to participate fully in society. Therefore, there is a need for targeted programs that promote adult education and enhance the literacy skills of senior citizens in the village. Furthermore, improving the literacy rate among senior citizens in Dighiar village can have a positive impact on the overall development of the community, including improved access to healthcare and employment opportunities.

Table 1.6

What was the occupation of senior citizens prior to retirement?

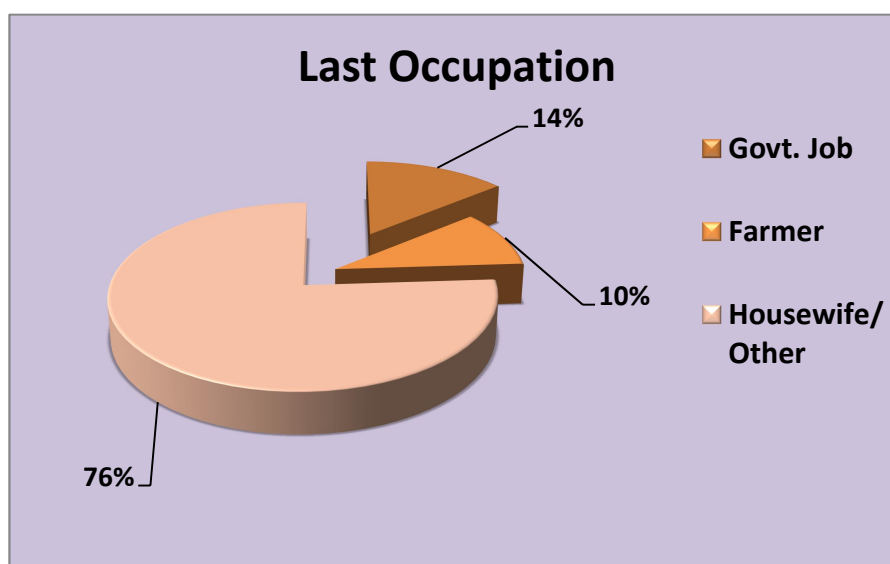| Serial no.	Last Occupation	Number	Percent (%)
1	Govt. job	7	14
2	Farmer	5	10
3	Housewife/Other	38	76
	Total	50	100

Table 1.6 shows the last occupations of senior citizens in Dighiar village, where 50 participants were randomly sampled. The data indicates that the majority of the participants, accounting for 76%, identified themselves as housewives or had occupations that were not specified. 14% of the participants were employed in government jobs, while 10% identified themselves as farmers. This data suggests that there is a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village who may have had less formal occupational experiences or may have retired from their previous jobs. Further research can be conducted to explore the reasons behind these occupation patterns and their impact on the lives of the senior citizens.

Table 1.7

Have you ever heard of senior citizens' rights before?

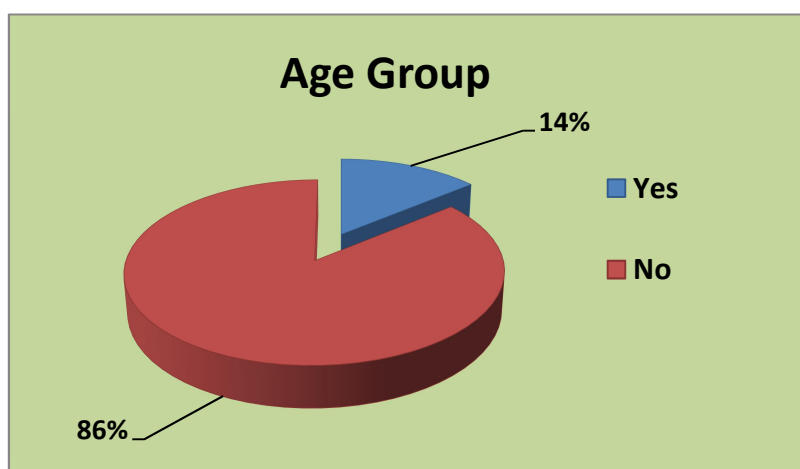| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	07	14
2	No	43	86
	Total	50	100

Table 1.7 displays the results of a survey conducted in Dighiar village, where 50 senior citizens were randomly sampled to collect data on their awareness of senior citizen rights. The data reveals that 86% of the participants responded negatively when asked if they had ever heard of senior citizen rights before, while only 14% answered positively. These findings indicate that there is a significant lack of knowledge among senior citizens in Dighiar village about their rights, which could potentially lead to their exploitation or marginalization. Further research and initiatives are needed to raise awareness about senior citizen rights and empower the elderly population in Dighiar village.

Table 1.8

Do you know that senior citizens have a several special right to healthcare and medical facilities?

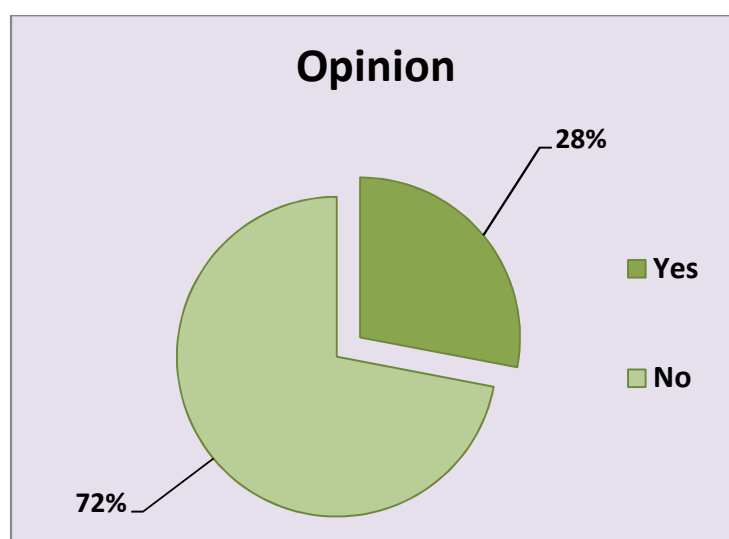| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	14	28
2	No	36	72
	Total	50	100

Table 1.8 shows the results of a survey conducted in Dighiar village to assess the level of awareness among senior citizens regarding their special rights to healthcare and medical facilities. The data reveals that out of the 50 participants who were randomly sampled, only 28% responded positively to having knowledge about the special rights that senior citizens have in regards to healthcare and medical facilities, while 72% replied negatively. These findings suggest that there is a significant lack of awareness among the senior citizen population in Dighiar village regarding their special rights to healthcare, which highlights the need for further initiatives to educate and empower the elderly population.

Table 1.9

Have you ever received affordable housing under any Government of India scheme?

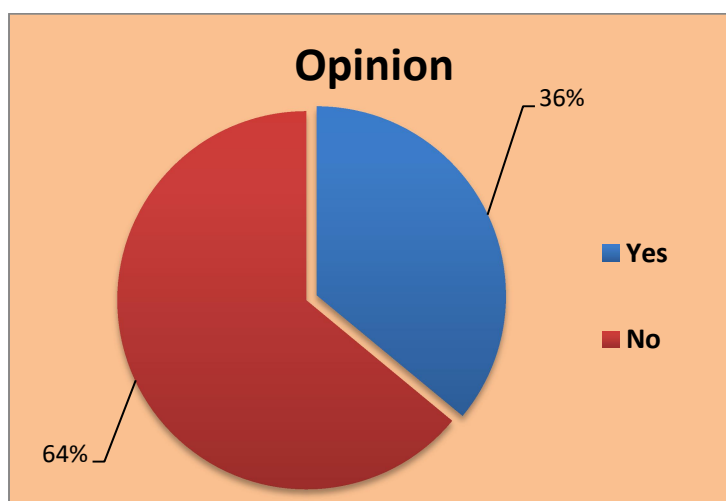| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	18	36
2	No	32	64
	Total	50	100

Table 1.9 presents data on the number of senior citizens in Dighiar village who have received affordable housing under any Government of India scheme. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 36% of the participants responded positively to having received affordable housing under a government scheme, while 64% replied negatively. These findings suggest that a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village have not availed themselves of affordable housing schemes offered by the government, which may be attributed to a lack of awareness or accessibility to such schemes. Further research and initiatives can be undertaken to assess and improve the situation of affordable housing for senior citizens in Dighiar village.

Table 1.10

Do you know, Senior citizens have the right to legal protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation?

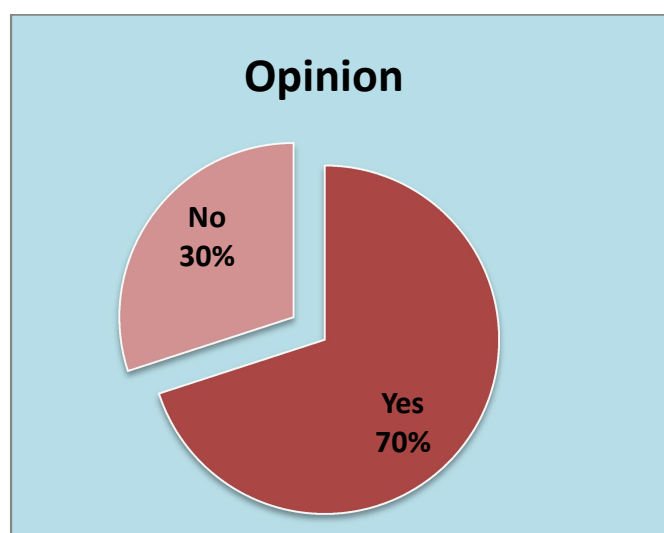| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	35	70
2	No	15	30
	Total	50	100

Opinion

No
30%

Yes
70%

Table 1.10 shows the results of a survey conducted in Dighiar village to assess the level of awareness among senior citizens regarding their legal protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The data reveals that out of the 50 participants who were randomly sampled, 70% responded positively to being aware of their legal rights, while 30% replied negatively. These findings indicate that a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village have knowledge of their legal rights and are aware of their protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation. However, further initiatives can be undertaken to increase awareness and ensure the implementation of these legal rights for senior citizens.

Table 1.11

Do senior citizens face any discrimination or prejudice based on their age or gender?

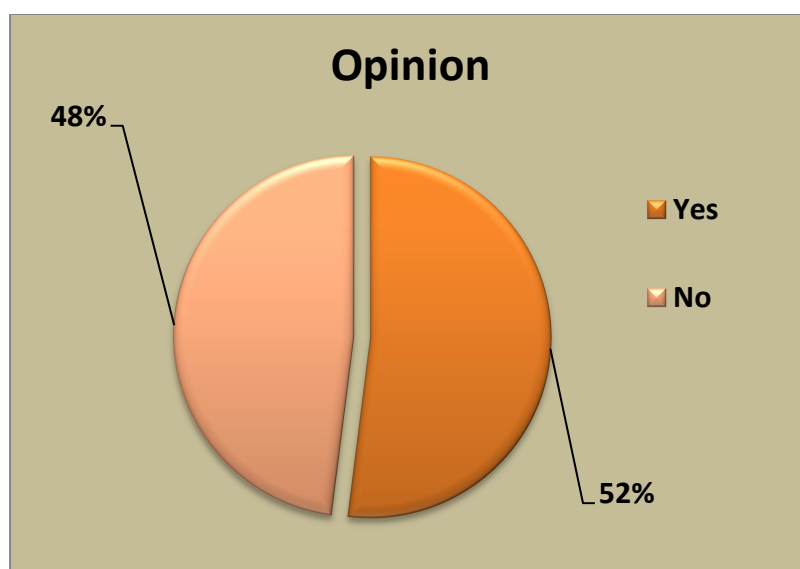| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	26	52
2	No	24	48
	Total	50	100

Opinion

48%

52%

Yes
No

Table 1.11 presents data on the prevalence of discrimination and prejudice faced by senior citizens in Dighiar village based on their age or gender. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 52% of the participants responded positively to facing discrimination or prejudice based on their age or gender, while 48% replied negatively. These findings suggest that a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village face discrimination or prejudice based on their age or gender, which highlights the need for further initiatives to address and prevent such discriminatory practices. Further research can be conducted to explore the reasons behind such discrimination and the impact it has on the lives of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

Table 1.12

Are senior citizens in Dighiar village respected and valued in the community?

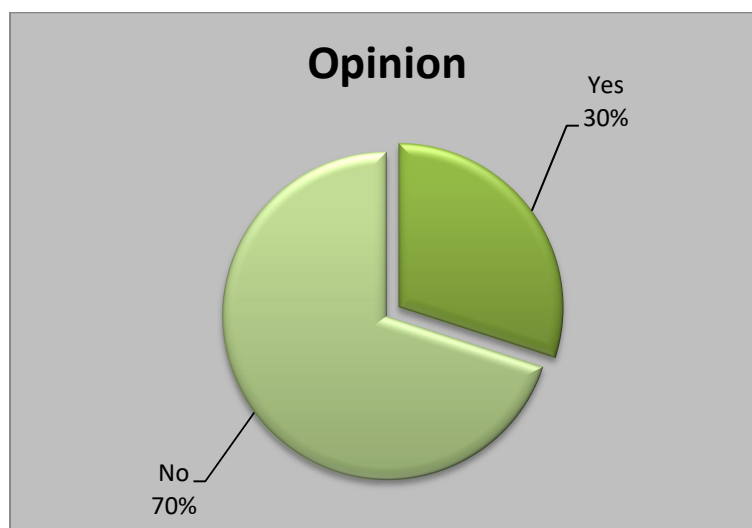| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	15	30
2	No	35	70
	Total	50	100

Table 1.12 presents data on the level of respect and value that senior citizens in Dighiar village receive from their community. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that only 30% of the participants responded positively to senior citizens being respected and valued in the community, while 70% replied negatively. These findings indicate that there is a significant lack of respect and value for senior citizens in Dighiar village, which highlights the need for further initiatives to promote their social inclusion and well-being. Further research can be undertaken to understand the reasons behind this trend and identify potential solutions to address it.

Table 1.13

Do you believe senior citizens in Dighiar village feel socially isolated or excluded?

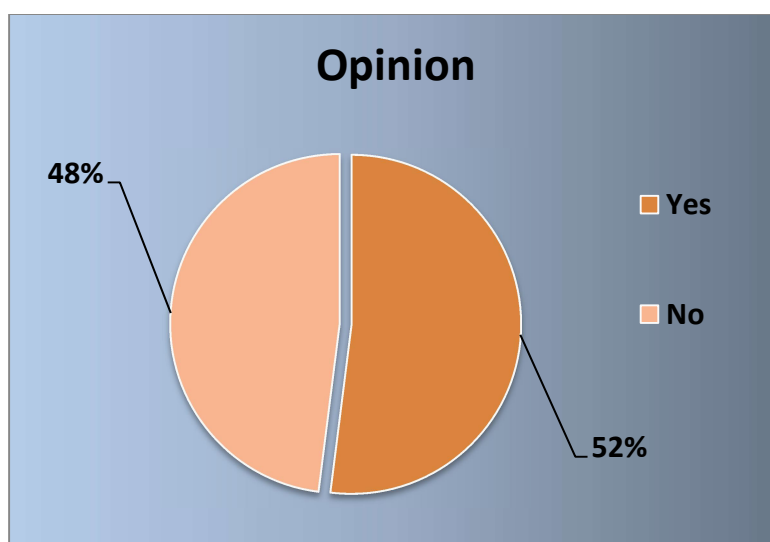| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	26	52
2	No	24	48
	Total	50	100

Opinion

Table 1.13 presents data on the prevalence of social isolation or exclusion experienced by senior citizens in Dighiar village. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 52% of the participants responded positively to feeling socially isolated or excluded, while 48% replied negatively. These findings suggest that a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village experience social isolation or exclusion, which can negatively impact their well-being and quality of life. Further initiatives can be undertaken to promote social inclusion and improve the social support network for senior citizens in Dighiar village, thereby addressing the issue of social isolation and exclusion.

Table 1.14

Do you have a good relationship with your grandchildren and they take care of you?

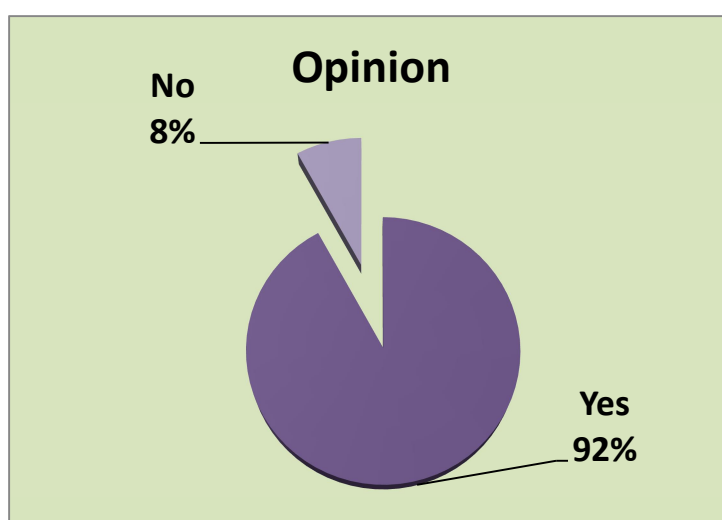| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	46	92
2	No	4	8
	Total	50	100

Table 1.14 presents data on the relationship between senior citizens in Dighiar village and their grandchildren. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 92% of the participants responded positively to having a good relationship with their grandchildren and being taken care of by them, while only 8% replied negatively. These findings indicate that there is a strong familial support system for senior citizens in Dighiar village, which can have positive impacts on their physical and mental well-being. Further research can be conducted to understand the factors that contribute to such strong family ties and identify potential ways to promote and strengthen these relationships.

Table 1.15

Do you believe that the younger generation, after marriage, takes care of their parent?

Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	13	26
2	No	37	74
	Total	50	100
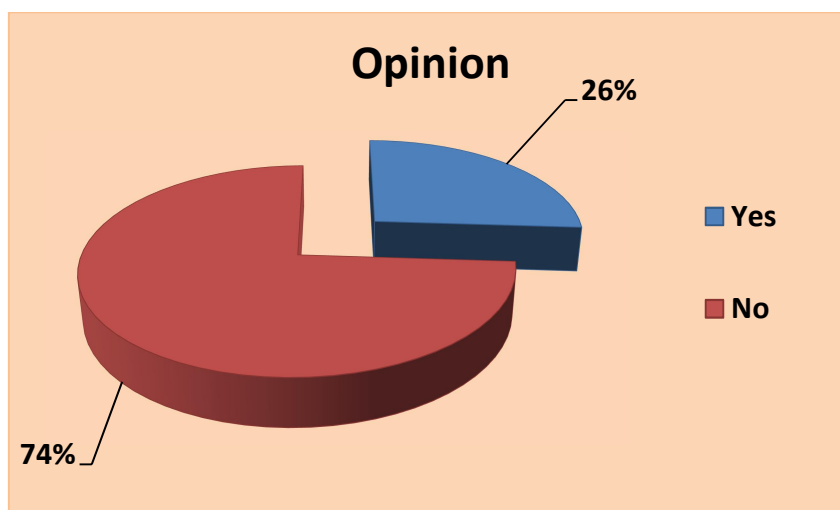
Table 1.15 presents data on the beliefs of senior citizens in Dighiar village regarding the responsibility of the younger generation to take care of their parents after marriage. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that only 26% of the participants responded positively to this belief, while 74% replied negatively. These findings suggest that there is a lack of expectation among senior citizens in Dighiar village that the younger generation will take care of them after marriage. This highlights the need for further research to understand the factors contributing to such beliefs and identify potential ways to promote intergenerational support and care.

Table1.16

Do you receive an old age pension or any other form of pension from the government?

Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	42	84
2	No	8	16
	Total	50	100
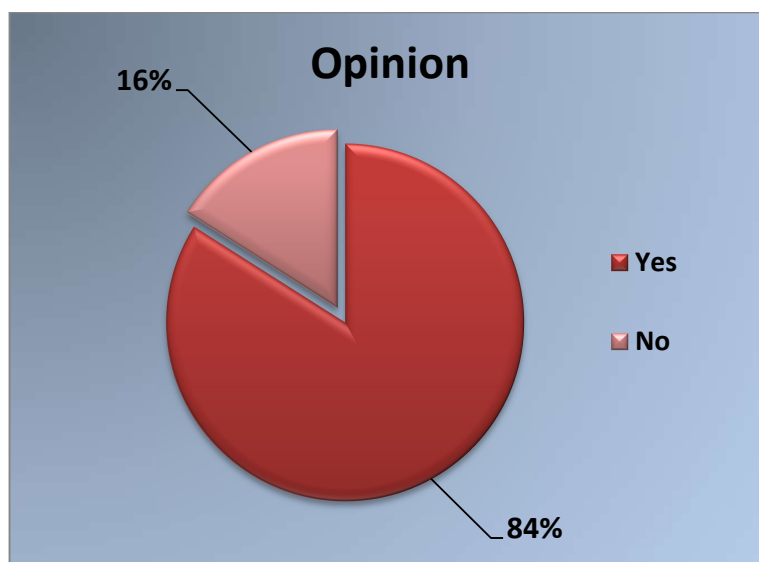
Table 1.16 presents data on the receipt of old age pension or any other form of pension from the government among senior citizens in Dighiar village. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 84% of the participants responded positively to receiving such a pension, while only 16% replied negatively. These findings indicate that a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village receive financial support from the government, which can have positive impacts on their economic well-being. Further research can be conducted to understand the effectiveness of such pension schemes in meeting the financial needs of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

Table 1.17

Do you believe that it is a good idea for the younger generation to give pocket money to their elderly parents?

Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	50	100
2	No	0	0
	Total	50	100

Opinion
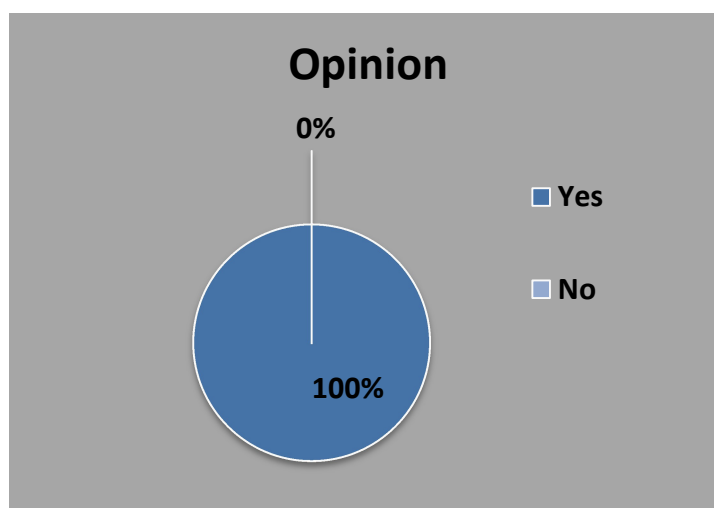
Table 1.17 presents data on the beliefs of senior citizens in Dighiar village regarding the provision of pocket money by the younger generation to their elderly parents. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 100% of the participants responded positively to this idea, while none replied negatively. These findings suggest that senior citizens in Dighiar village consider the provision of pocket money by the younger generation to be a good idea, which can have positive impacts on their financial well-being and overall quality of life. Further research can be conducted to understand the factors contributing to such beliefs and identify potential ways to promote intergenerational financial support and care.

Table 1.18

Do you believe that senior citizens in Dighiar village have a greater role in shaping the community's future?

Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	20	40
2	No	30	60
	Total	50	100
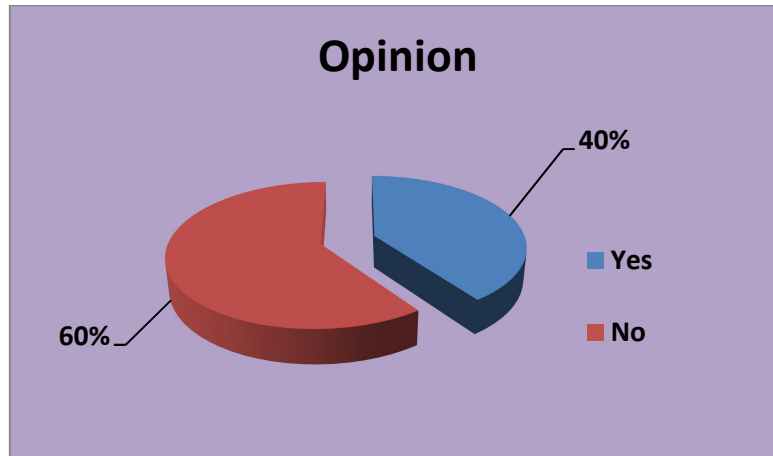
Table 1.18 presents data on the beliefs of senior citizens in Dighiar village regarding their role in shaping the community's future. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that only 40% of the participants believe that senior citizens in Dighiar village have a greater role in shaping the community's future, while 60% replied negatively. These findings suggest that senior citizens in Dighiar village may perceive themselves as having a limited role in shaping the community's future, which may have implications for their engagement and participation in community development initiatives. Further research can be conducted to understand the factors contributing to such beliefs and identify potential strategies to promote the meaningful engagement of senior citizens in community development.

Table 1.19

Do you believe that younger generation consider their parents as a burden?

| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	34	68
2	No	16	32
	Total	50	100

Table 1.19 presents data on the beliefs of senior citizens in Dighiar village regarding whether the younger generation considers their parents as a burden. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 68% of the participants believe that the younger generation considers their parents as a burden, while 32% replied negatively. These findings suggest that there may be a perception among senior citizens in Dighiar village that the younger generation does not fully appreciate their contributions or value their presence. Such perceptions can have implications for intergenerational relationships and the social and emotional well-being of both senior citizens and younger generations. Further research can be conducted to understand the factors contributing to such beliefs and identify potential strategies to promote positive intergenerational relationships.

Table 1.20

Do you believe that younger generation takes care of the elderly when they fall ill?

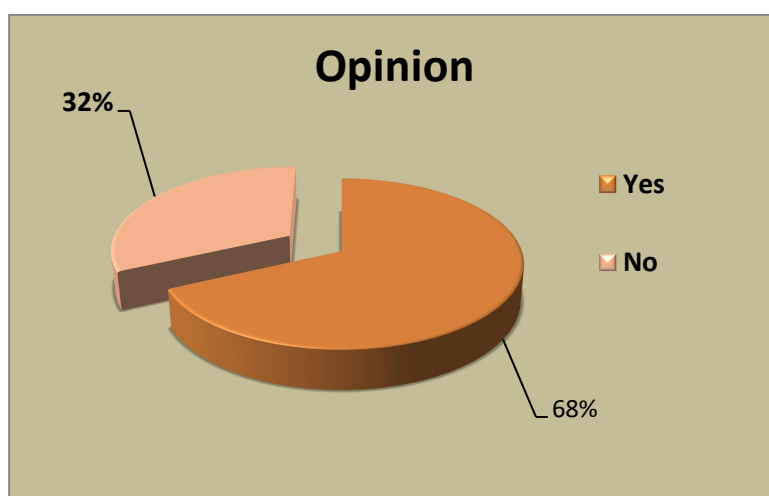| Serial no.	Answer	Number	Percent (%)
1	Yes	31	62
2	No	19	38
	Total	50	100
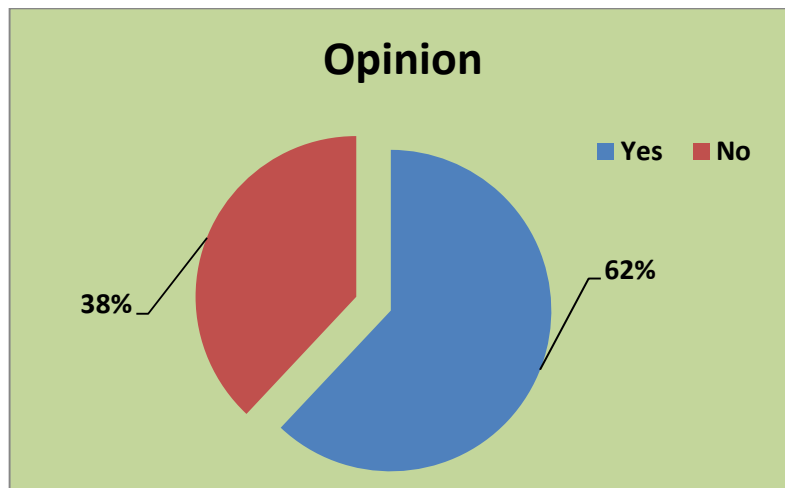
Table 1.20 presents data on the beliefs of senior citizens in Dighiar village regarding whether the younger generation takes care of the elderly when they fall ill. The survey, conducted on a random sample of 50 participants, reveals that 62% of the participants believe that the younger generation takes care of the elderly when they fall ill, while 38% replied negatively. These findings suggest that there may be a positive perception among senior citizens in Dighiar village that the younger generation takes care of them when they need help. Such perceptions can have positive implications for intergenerational relationships and the social and emotional well-being of both senior citizens and younger generations. Further research can be conducted to understand the factors contributing to such beliefs and identify potential strategies to promote positive intergenerational relationships.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

The study conducted in Dighiar village of District Darbhanga aimed to explore the social status and rights of senior citizens. Through a random sampling of 50 participants, several interesting findings emerged that could help inform policy changes and community awareness efforts. The data collected revealed that while the majority of senior citizens identified as Muslim, a significant proportion also identified as Hindu. This highlights the need for cultural sensitivity and understanding in policies and programs that aim to support senior citizens. Regarding their last occupation, a significant number of senior citizens were housewives or engaged in other work, while a smaller proportion had government jobs or were farmers. This indicates that senior citizens in Dighiar village are not just dependent on their families for financial support but also engage in economic activities.

Furthermore, a large proportion of the surveyed senior citizens had not heard about their rights, particularly regarding healthcare, housing, and legal protection against abuse and exploitation. This demonstrates the need for increased awareness campaigns and outreach programs to inform senior citizens of their rights and how to access them. It was also found that the majority of senior citizens had not received affordable housing under any Government of India scheme. This suggests that more effort is needed to ensure that senior citizens are included in housing programs and that they are made aware of the opportunities available to them. Another important finding was that a significant number of senior citizens in Dighiar village faced discrimination or prejudice based on their age or gender. This highlights the

need for increased community awareness and education to promote respect and value for senior citizens. A majority of senior citizens in the village reported feeling socially isolated or excluded. This points to the need for more community engagement programs that promote socialization and integration of senior citizens. On a positive note, almost all surveyed senior citizens had good relationships with their grandchildren, who also took care of them. This suggests the importance of intergenerational relationships in promoting the well-being of senior citizens. Regarding financial support, a large proportion of senior citizens received some form of pension from the government. However, the majority of senior citizens did not believe that the younger generation should give pocket money to their elderly parents. This could indicate a cultural belief that elderly parents should not be financially dependent on their children.

A significant number of senior citizens believed that they have a greater role to play in shaping the community's future. This highlights the importance of involving senior citizens in community decision-making processes and recognizing their contributions to the community. Overall, the study indicates that while senior citizens in Dighiar village are receiving some support from the government, there is still a need for increased awareness and community support. The findings suggest that senior citizens in the village face challenges related to discrimination, social isolation, and lack of knowledge about their rights. The study underscores the need for policies and programs that promote the well-being and rights of senior citizens, particularly in rural areas. It also highlights the need for community education and awareness programs that promote respect and value for senior citizens. The study provides valuable insights into the social status and rights of senior citizens in Dighiar village and underscores the importance of prioritizing the needs of this population in

policies and programs. The findings could inform policy changes and community outreach efforts aimed at improving the well-being and rights of senior citizens not just in Dighiar village but across the country. Furthermore, the data collected through the surveys shows that a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village are not aware of their rights and privileges as senior citizens. For instance, a majority of the respondents in Table 1.8 and Table 1.10 answered negatively when asked if they knew about senior citizens' right to healthcare and legal protection against abuse and neglect, respectively. This finding highlights the need for greater awareness-raising campaigns and educational programs targeting senior citizens in Dighiar village.

Moreover, the data also highlights the issue of social exclusion and isolation faced by senior citizens in Dighiar village. As Table 1.12 and Table 1.13 indicate, a large proportion of the respondents reported feeling disrespected and socially isolated, while over half of the respondents reported facing discrimination based on their age or gender. This finding underscores the need for community-based initiatives that promote social inclusion and address ageism and gender bias in Dighiar village.

Another key finding from the data is the high level of financial dependency of senior citizens on their families and the government. As Table 1.6 and Table 1.16 indicate, a significant proportion of the respondents reported being farmers or housewives with no regular source of income, while a vast majority relied on pensions or other forms of financial assistance from the government. This finding highlights the need for policies that promote economic empowerment of senior citizens, including employment opportunities, social security schemes, and access to affordable healthcare and housing.

In addition, the data reveals the importance of intergenerational relationships and familial support in the lives of senior citizens in Dighiar village. As Table 1.14 and Table 1.17 indicate, a vast majority of the respondents reported having a good relationship with their grandchildren and believing that younger generations should provide financial support to their elderly parents. This finding underscores the need for intergenerational programs that promote positive relationships between older and younger generations, and encourage younger generations to provide emotional and financial support to their elderly parents. While government policies and programs have made significant strides in addressing the needs of senior citizens, there is still a significant gap between policy implementation and ground-level realities. For instance, while a majority of the respondents in Table 1.16 reported receiving pensions or financial assistance from the government, many still faced financial difficulties and lacked access to basic healthcare and housing. This finding calls for a more nuanced and context-specific approach to senior citizen welfare that takes into account the unique socio-economic and cultural factors that shape the lives of senior citizens in Dighiar village.

The data collected through the surveys provides a comprehensive understanding of the social status and rights of senior citizens in Dighiar village. The findings of the study highlight the need for community-based initiatives that promote social inclusion, intergenerational relationships, and economic empowerment of senior citizens. Additionally, the study underscores the need for greater awareness-raising campaigns and educational programs targeting senior citizens, and a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to senior citizen welfare in Dighiar village. Overall, the study has important implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working in the

field of senior citizen welfare, particularly in rural areas of India. Additionally, the survey results reveal that a significant proportion of senior citizens in Dighiar village are unaware of their rights and entitlements. For instance, 72% of the participants did not know that senior citizens have several special rights to healthcare and medical facilities. This highlights the need for greater awareness campaigns and educational programs aimed at informing the elderly population about their rights and how they can access them.

Furthermore, the study finds that senior citizens in Dighiar village face discrimination and prejudice based on their age and gender. Over half of the participants (52%) reported experiencing discrimination, which is a concerning issue. This calls for a deeper investigation into the root causes of ageism and gender-based discrimination in the community and the development of strategies to address these issues.

This study also provides valuable insights into the social status and rights of senior citizens in Dighiar village of District Darbhanga. The survey results indicate that there is a significant need to raise awareness about the rights and entitlements of senior citizens and to address the challenges faced by this population in accessing their rights. The study underscores the importance of targeted policy interventions and community-based initiatives aimed at promoting the social inclusion and well-being of the elderly population in Dighiar village and beyond. It is hoped that the findings of this study will inform future research and policy initiatives aimed at improving the lives of senior citizens in India and other parts of the world.

In conclusion, the study provides valuable insights into the social status and rights of senior citizens in Dighiar village, highlighting the need for greater awareness, community involvement, and social interventions to promote the

well-being and rights of senior citizens. It is hoped that the findings of this study will inform future research and policy initiatives aimed at improving the lives of senior citizens in India and other countries.

Suggestion:

The responses I received from the participants in question 2.2 of my dissertation's interview schedule, as well as observations made during the investigation, suggest that the younger generation should respect their elders and listen to their feelings and words. It was very common in the past for younger generations to take care of their elderly and ensure they receive higher education. They should provide any necessary support to their elders and behave in a respectful manner towards them. Unfortunately, younger generations today are not always reading their elders in a good manner and should strive to become good citizens. In some cases, daughters-in-law may not include their elderly in-laws in group activities. Children should show kindness towards their elders and not behave rudely, while also following traditional culture and caring for their parents. The younger generation should ensure that the basic needs of their elderly are met. They should understand that if they show respect to their elders, they will be respected in society when they themselves become elderly. It is important to follow their religious beliefs and become good citizens. Finally, they should strive to earn a good living and save money for any future problems.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CHAPTER ONE

1. Gandhi, M. K. (1969). Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (Vol. 91, p. 17). Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India.

2. "Constitution of India." (1949). Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. Retrieved from
https://indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1415?sam_handle=123456789/1362

3. "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" (2007). Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. Retrieved from
http://www.legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A2007-56.pdf

CHAPTER TWO

1.: Sen, S., & Goli, S. (2018). Living Arrangements and Social Support of Elderly in India: A Study of National Sample Survey Data. Journal of Population Ageing, 11(3), 281-301.

2.: Garg, S., & Sharma, S. (2017). Nutritional Status and Well-Being of Elderly Women in Rural India: A Community-Based Study. Journal of Women's Health Care, 6(6), 1-7.

3. Somannavar, M. R., Nagendra, H. G., Kumar, S. G., & Murthy, S. G. (2019). Cognitive Impairment and Quality of Life among Elderly Population in Rural South India: A Cross-Sectional Study. Indian Journal of Community Medicine, 44(2), 148-152.

4. Manickam, N., Prakash, J., & Anbazhagan, S. (2018). Old Age Homes and Their Residents: A Study from Chennai, India. Journal of Mid-life Health, 9(3), 140-144.

5.: Kamalakannan, S., Balaji, A. L., Sudhir, P. M., & Singh, Z. (2019). Elder Abuse in India: A Systematic Review. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 31(4-5), 431-450.

6.: Kathirvel, S., Samuel, A. J., & Singh, Z. (2018). Depression and Its Associated Factors among Elderly in South India. Journal of Geriatric Mental Health, 5(2), 95-99.

7. Bhatt, S. P., Arya, D. S., & Mishra, S. K. (2020). Geriatric Health Problems in India: A Review. Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care, 9(4), 1709-1716.

8. Singh, A. K., Singh, A., Singh, R., & Kumar, A. (2018). Elderly Health Care in India: Issues and Challenges. Indian Journal of Gerontology, 32(3), 346-361.

9. Bhardwaj, P., & Singh, R. (2018). Financial Inclusion and Elderly Well-being in India. Journal of Financial Services Research, 53(2), 121-143.

10. Goyal, S., Singh, R., & Singh, A. (2020). Social Exclusion and Its Impact on Elderly Health in India. Journal of Population Ageing, 13(2), 147-166.

11.: Singh, A., Kaur, G., & Goyal, T. (2020). Elder Abuse in India: A Systematic Review. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 32(2), 169-187.

12.: Kar, S., Mahapatra, T., & Singh, S. (2019). The Impact of Family Support on Elderly Health in India: An Empirical Study. Indian Journal of Human Development, 13(2), 223-238.

13. Roy, N. R., Das, D., & Sarkar, S. (2018). Assessing the Social and Economic Consequences of Population Aging in India. Journal of Aging & Social Policy, 30(1), 1-20.

14. Das, D., Jolly, S., & Das, S. (2017). Health and Social Welfare of Older People in India: A Literature Review. Indian Journal of Gerontology, 31(1), 17-43.

15. Singh, Y. (1994). Social Status of the Aged in India: A Sociological Study. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

CHAPTER THREE

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dighiar

2. https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/data/population-finder

INTERVIEW-SCHEDULE

Introduction:

      Thank you so much for agreeing to participate in this research study. Your time and insights are incredibly valuable to me, and I want to express my sincere appreciation for your willingness to share your experiences and opinions. Your participation in this study will help shed light on an important issue that affects many people in our society, and your voice will help shape the conversation around it. **I want to assure you that your responses will be kept confidential and your privacy will be respected at all times.** Once again, thank you for your willingness to participate, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and insights.

1. **Background and Demographic Information:**

      Name...

1.1 Religion...

1.2 Caste Category -   GEN (   )   OBC (   )   SC&ST (   )

1.3 Age Group -   60-65 yr (   )   66-70 (   )   above 71 (   )

1.4 Gender -   Male (   )   Female (   )

1.5 Literate -   Yes (   )   No (   )

1.6 Last Occupation -   Govt. job (   )   Farmer (   )   Housewife/Other (   )

Perception of Rights:

1.7 Have you ever heard of senior citizens' rights before? Yes (   )   No (   )

1.8 Do you know that senior citizens have a several special right to healthcare and medical facilities?   Yes (   )   No (   )

1.9 Have you ever received affordable housing under any government of India scheme?
                    Yes (   )   No (   )

1.10 Do you know, Senior citizens have the right to legal protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation?   Yes (   )   No (   )

Social Status of Senior Citizens:

1.11 Do senior citizens face any discrimination or prejudice based on their age or gender?
                    Yes (   )   No (   )

1.12 Are senior citizens in Dighiar village respected and valued in the community?
                    Yes (   )   No (   )

1.13 Do you believe senior citizens in Dighiar village feel socially isolated or excluded?
                    Yes (   )   No (   )

1.14 Do you have a good relationship with your grandchildren and they take care of you?
                    Yes (   )   No (   )

1.15 Do you believe that the younger generation, after marriage, takes care of their parent?
                    Yes (   )   No (   )

1.16 Do you receive an old age pension or any other form of pension from the government?
                    Yes (   )   No (   )

1.17Do you believe that it is a good idea for the younger generation to give pocket money to their elderly parents?   Yes (   )   No (   )

1.18 Do you believe that senior citizens in Dighiar village have a greater role in shaping the community's future?   Yes (   )   No (   )

1.19 Do you believe that younger generation consider their parents as a burden?
                              Yes (   )   No (   )

1.20 Do you believe that younger generation takes care of the elderly when they fall ill?
                              Yes (   )   No (   )

2.1 Do you have any suggestion to the younger generation?   Yes (   ) No (   )

2.2 If yes, then please write or tell me so that I can write them down...............

Conclusion:

Thank you for participating in this research study. Your insights have been valuable to me.

Supervisor   Investigator

Dr. Saroj Choudhary   **Nasir Zia**

HEAD   Roll No - 212081039299

Sociology Department   Reg. No- 20208039268

Maharani Kalyani College

Laheriasarai, Darbhanga